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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Chinese Warty Newt

Paramesotriton chinensis

Paramesotriton chinensis is a sturdy, almost entirely aquatic salamander of 12-15 cm from rivers, wetlands and moist forest in central, eastern and southern China. It is brown with strongly granular skin, yellow spots of varying extent and an orange to red belly. In captivity it is an undemanding, cool-loving aquarium animal that needs clean water below 22 °C.

Family: Salamandridae Former name: *Cynops chinensis* **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**12-15 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**15-20 °C**
Temperature, night	**13-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-20 cm
UVB	**Not required**
Winter rest	**10-13 °C** 7-9 weeks
Diet	**Insects, complete diet and worms/snails**
Kept	**In pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per season	**80-100**
Clutches per year	**1**
Hatching	**14 days** at 15-20 °C
Larval period	**80-100 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Complete diet and small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**None**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	A pair of *Paramesotriton chinensis* can be kept in an aquarium of at least 60 × 30 × 35 cm (about 60 litres). A single salamander can make do with about 40 litres, but the animals are sturdy and need room to move.
TEMPERATURE	*Paramesotriton chinensis* must be kept cool: 15-20 °C by day and 13-18 °C at night, and the water must not exceed 22 °C. In summer this requires cooling in many homes, with a fan, cooling elements or a cool room.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	*Paramesotriton chinensis* is almost entirely aquatic, so humidity plays a small role. About 70-90 % in the room is fine. A land area must be kept damp.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water should be about 15-20 cm deep. The species is not fussy about water values as long as the water is clean, and extreme values of pH and hardness are avoided. Use dechlorinated tap water.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The animals do not need strong light. A single fluorescent or LED tube the length of the aquarium on a timer gives a fixed daily rhythm and is enough. UVB is not necessary.
FEEDING	*Paramesotriton chinensis* eats most things: pieces of live earthworm, crickets, waxworms, freshly moulted mealworms, cockroaches and pieces of shrimp as well as feeding sticks for aquatic turtles.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Paramesotriton chinensis* is shy at first, but once the animals have got used to their permanent aquarium, they often become confiding and swim along the front glass in anticipation of food.
NATIVE RANGE	China.